

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A thermal framing component comprising:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab; and

a third planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab; and

a fourth planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side in the direction opposite the third tab,

wherein the third tab is in longitudinal registration with the first tab, wherein the fourth tab is in longitudinal registration with the second tab, and wherein the second tab is longitudinally adjacent to the first tab, and

wherein the first and second tabs are free of apertures.

2. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing component of claim 1, further comprising a fourth tab extending from the first or second edge in the same plane as the planar web.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The framing component of claim 3, wherein the third tab is in longitudinal registration with the second tab.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing component of claim 1, wherein at least one tab extends the full length of the component.

8. (Currently amended) The thermal framing component of claim 1, further comprising:

 a plurality of planar tabs extending from the first edge in alternating position between a 90 degree angle from the first side and a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab; and

 a plurality of planar tabs extending from the second edge in alternating position between a 90 degree angle from the first side and a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab,

wherein the tabs extending from the first edge at a 90 degree angle from the first side are in longitudinal registration with the tabs extending from the second edge at a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab, and

wherein the tabs extending from the first edge at a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab are in longitudinal registration with the tabs extending from the second edge at a 90 degree angle from the first side, and

wherein the tabs extending from the first edge at a 90 degree angle from the first side and the tabs extending from the first edge at a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab are free of apertures.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A thermal framing component comprising:

 an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

a third tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

a fourth tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side,

wherein the first and fourth tabs are in longitudinal registration and the second and third tabs are in longitudinal registration.

12. (Currently amended) A thermal framing assembly for use in wall framing, comprising:

a top plate;

a bottom plate substantially parallel to and spaced from the top plate;

two spaced vertical studs, each including a stud upper end and a stud lower end, the stud upper end mounted to the top plate and stud lower end mounted to the bottom plate;

a thermal framing component interposed between the vertical studs and including ~~an~~ a component upper end and a component lower end, the component upper end mounted to the top plate and component lower end mounted to the bottom plate, including:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab; and

a third planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab;
and

a fourth planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side in the direction opposite the third tab,

wherein the third tab is in longitudinal registration with the first tab,
wherein the fourth tab is in longitudinal registration with the second tab, and
wherein the second tab is longitudinally adjacent to the first tab, and

rigid insulation having an edge in close and complementary registration with a side of the web,

wherein the first and second tabs are entirely within the same plane and the third and fourth tabs are entirely within the same plane.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The thermal framing assembly of claim 12, further comprising mid-span blocking, wherein the thermal framing component is mounted to the mid-span blocking.

16. (Withdrawn) A thermal framing assembly for use in wall framing, comprising:

a top plate;

a bottom plate substantially parallel to and spaced from the top plate;

a wall stud including an upper end and a lower end, the upper end mounted to the top plate and lower end mounted to the bottom plate;

a thermal framing component mounted along the wall stud below the top plate and above the bottom plate, comprising:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

a third tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

rigid insulation having an edge in close and complementary registration with a side of the web.

17. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing component of claim 16, further comprising a fourth tab extending from the first or second edge in the same plane as the planar web.

18. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing component of claim 16, further comprising a fourth tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side.

19. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing component of claim 18, wherein the first and third tabs are in longitudinal registration and the second and fourth tabs are in longitudinal registration.

20. (Withdrawn) The thermal framing assembly of claim 16, further comprising mid-span blocking, wherein the thermal framing component is mounted to the mid-span blocking.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of making a thermal framing component, comprising:

providing an elongated metal strip including two parallel edges and a longitudinal axis;

designating a portion of the strip as a web, the web having two edges substantially parallel to and spaced from the strip edges and two sides;

cutting at least at two locations from each strip edge to the proximate web edge along a path substantially perpendicular to the respective strip edge to form a tab along each web edge; and

breaking the strip along each web edge to bend the tabs to be substantially perpendicular to the web.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of making a thermal framing component of claim 21, wherein the tab along one edge is in longitudinal registration with the tab along the other edge.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of making a thermal framing component of claim 21, wherein the tab along one edge is longitudinally offset from the tab on the other edge.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of making a thermal framing component of claim 21, wherein breaking the strip along each web edge comprises bending one tab to form an angle of approximately 90 degrees with one side of the web, and bending the other tab in the opposite direction to form an angle of approximately 90 degrees with the other side of the web.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of making a thermal framing component of claim 21, wherein breaking the strip along each web edge comprises bending one tab to form an angle of approximately 90 degrees with one side of the web, and bending the other tab in the same direction to form an angle of approximately 90 degrees with the same side of the web.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a thermal framing assembly, comprising:

- providing a top plate and a bottom plate substantially parallel to and spaced from the top plate;
- providing first and second thermal framing components each including an upper end and a lower end;
- mounting the upper end of each thermal framing component to the top plate and each lower end to the bottom plate, each thermal framing component including:
 - an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;
 - a first tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;
 - a second tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

a third tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side;
providing rigid insulation including two substantially parallel edges; and
inserting the rigid insulation between the two thermal components causing the edges to be in close and complementary registration with a side of the web of each component.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of installing the thermal framing assembly of claim 26, wherein mounting the thermal framing components and inserting the rigid insulation comprises mounting the first thermal framing component to the top and bottom plates, inserting the rigid insulation to be in close and complementary registration with the web of the first thermal framing component, placing the second thermal framing component so that the web is in close and complementary registration with the rigid insulation, and mounting the second thermal framing component to the top and bottom plates.

28. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a thermal framing assembly, comprising:

providing a top plate and a bottom plate substantially parallel to and spaced from the top plate;

providing a first and second wall studs each including an upper end, a lower end, a wall stud web, and a wall stud flange;

mounting the upper end of each wall stud to the top plate and the lower end of each wall stud to the bottom plate;

providing first and second thermal framing components;

mounting a first thermal framing component to the first wall stud and the second thermal framing component to the second wall stud, the mounting locations below the top plate and above the bottom plate, each thermal framing component including:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side; and

a third tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side;

providing rigid insulation including two substantially parallel edges; and

inserting the rigid insulation between the two thermal components causing the edges to be in close and complementary registration with a side of the web of each component.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of installing the thermal framing assembly of claim 28, wherein mounting the thermal framing components and inserting the rigid insulation comprises mounting the first thermal framing component to the first wall stud, inserting the rigid insulation to be in close and complementary registration with the web of the first thermal framing component, placing the second thermal framing component so that the web is in close and complementary registration with the rigid insulation, and mounting the second thermal framing component to the second wall stud.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of installing the thermal framing assembly of claim 28, wherein mounting each thermal framing component comprises mounting a fourth tab to the respective wall stud, each fourth tab extending from the respective thermal framing component in the same plane as the planar web to be disposed along the respective wall stud web.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of installing the thermal framing assembly of claim 28, wherein mounting each thermal framing component comprises mounting the respective first tab, second tab, third tab, or a combination thereof along the face of the respective wall stud flange.

32. (Currently amended) A thermal framing component comprising:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis; and
a plurality of planar tabs extending from the first edge and a plurality of planar tabs extending from the second edge,
wherein tabs that extend from a first longitudinal position and from opposite edges form a “Z” shape with the web, and
wherein tabs that extend from a second longitudinal position that is adjacent to the first longitudinal position and that extend from opposite edges form an inverted “Z” shape with the web, and
wherein the planar tabs extending from the first edge are free of apertures.

33. (Currently amended) A thermal framing system comprising:

a thermal framing component including:

an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;

a first planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab; and

a third planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab,

a fourth planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side,

wherein the first and third tabs are in longitudinal registration, the first and second tabs are longitudinally adjacent,

wherein the first and second tabs are entirely within the same plane and the third and fourth tabs are entirely within the same plane, and
the first and fourth tabs form a first insulation slot along the longitudinal axis on the first side, and the second and third tabs form a second insulation slot along the longitudinal axis on the second side;
~~and the second and third tabs form a longitudinal insulation slot; and~~
a first rigid insulation sheet including a first sheet edge, wherein the first sheet edge is reciprocally received in the first insulation slot; and
a second rigid insulation sheet including a second sheet edge, wherein the second sheet edge is disposed in the second insulation slot.

34. (New) The thermal framing system of claim 33, wherein the first and second tabs are free of apertures.

35. (New) An assembly for use in wall framing, comprising:

- a top plate;
- a bottom plate substantially parallel to and spaced from the top plate;
- two spaced vertical studs, each including a stud upper end and a stud lower end, the stud upper end mounted to the top plate and stud lower end mounted to the bottom plate; and
- a strip interposed between the vertical studs and including a strip upper end and a component lower end, the strip upper end mounted to the top plate and strip lower end mounted to the bottom plate, including:
 - an elongated planar web including a longitudinal axis, a first edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a second edge parallel to the longitudinal axis, a first side, and a second side;
 - a first planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side;

a second planar tab extending from the first edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in a direction opposite that of the first tab;

a third planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the second side in the direction opposite that of the first tab;
and

a fourth planar tab extending from the second edge at approximately a 90 degree angle from the first side in the direction opposite the third tab,

wherein the third tab is in longitudinal registration with the first tab,
wherein the fourth tab is in longitudinal registration with the second tab, and
wherein the second tab is longitudinally adjacent to the first tab.

36. (New) The assembly of claim 36, further comprising rigid insulation having an edge in close and complementary registration with a side of the web.

37. (New) The assembly of claim 36, further comprising mid-span blocking, wherein the component is mounted to the mid-span blocking.

38. (New) The assembly of claim 36, wherein the first and second tabs are entirely within the same plane and the third and fourth tabs are entirely within the same plane.

39. (New) The assembly of claim 36, wherein the first and second tabs are free of apertures.